AN INTERESTING BIOGRAPHY BY HIS

GRANDSON. THE LIFE OF RICHARD OWEN. By His Grandson, the Rev. Bichard Owen, M. A., With the Scientific Portions Revised by C. Davies Sherborn. Also an Essay on Owen's Position in Anatomical Science by the Right Hon. T. H. Huxley, F. R. S. Portraits and Illustrations. In Two Volumes. Vol. 1, pp. (14), 409. Vol. II, pp. (7), 393. D. Appleton & Co.

The stubborn figure of Sir Richard Owen will always stand for conservatism in science. Yet tion, still holds that in the kind of labors to he was far from being a conservative. It merely happened that he was not ready for the most the Englishman was worthy of being named efficient hypothesis attained by science, that of with the Frenchman. He maintained that the evolution, and for the principle of natural selec- historian of comparative anatomy and of palaetion, when these captivated the attention of the ontology will always have to place Owen next world. It might be supposed that this unreadi- to and hardly lower than Cuvier. Not only in ness on his part was due to his partiality for de- the amount of anatomical fact which he coltails to the exclusion of general theories. But it lected, but in the general excellence of the does not appear that such was the case, for monographs which flowed in such unwearled Owen had his moments of speculative enthusi- succession from his pen, does he rival Cuvier; asm, and before the publication of Darwin's he holds a unique position by reason of "the views had used language in a way that seemed | way in which so many of these memoirs have afterward a presage of the new views and almost opened up new regions of investigation." His preliminary and actual, of the great Museum warranted him in asserting his rights to conside early memoirs on the anatomy of the anthroeration as the real inventor of the idea. There poid apes were the starting point of all later were times when he seemed to claim this priority. But these were momentary, and were has since been found necessary to answer. The finally replaced by a conviction that the true same is said by Professor Huxley of Owen's solution was still to be sought. His indecision investigations on the monatremes and marat a critical period led Darwin to write that not only he, but others, found Owen's controversial writings difficult to understand and to reconcile with each other. "As far as the mere enunciation," he added, "of the principle of natural selection is concerned, it is quite immaterial whether or not Professor Owen preceded me, for both of us were long ago preceded by Dr. Wells and Mr. | tology. It was his discussion of toxodon platen-Matthews." Whatever views Owen had were not held persistently. The possibility of progress from lower to higher, from simpler to more com-plicated forms of life, occurred to him, and he announced his views casually. But he attached no importance to them till he saw the actual stir created by Darwin's theory. His mind was hardly constituted in such a way that it could look upon the contrivance of a successful speculative system in the light of a discovery. He wanted something that appealed more directly to his senses. His own work in revealing the character of "Trichina Spiralis" was of the kind that exactly satisfied his ideals of scientific discovery. His tentative hints toward a scheme for bringing the isolated facts of science into relation with each other were not pressed, because the facts as they stood, in their isolation, were good enough for him. He demanded every atom of evidence that could be obtained about the individuals that came under his dissecting tools, and he had an inspired quickness in noting every peculiarity and in making due inferences some of them extremely far-reaching in their character. He carried this faculty, sharpened by his anatomical practice, into other fields of science. For example, in 1834 he wrote a paper "On the dislocations of the tail at a certain point observable in the skeletons of many ichthyosauria. From the apparent deformity in question he inferred that these fossil animals had in their time possessed a heavy caudal fin. The suggestion

Wilrtemberg the skeleton of an ichthyosaur in which the outlines of the fleshy parts were impressed on the stone. This specimen also showed that the caudal fin was really larger than Owen had ventured to imagine." This profound study of the individual subject, human or animal, helps to account for the feeling in Owen which enabled him, as Professor Mivart said, to "spread abroad in England the perception that a deep significance underlies the structure of animals, a significance for which no stress or strain, and no influence of heredity, and certainly no mere practical utility, can ac count." Homologies were all the more certain when dwelt upon by an intelligence which persistently sought the type in the single skeleton. Whatever speculative theories were back of them, they were in themselves practical. Only a profound knowledge of structural likenesses comprising the most minute and trivial peculiarities could have enabled Owen to work out the figure of the Dinornis, while the question whether such a creature had ever existed was still in dispute. One day a seafaring man brought him what at first sight looked like the marrow-bone of an ox. But the stranger insisted that it was a fragment of the thigh-bone of a great eagle that once existed in New-Zealand. Owen may well have been nettled by having what seemed a very silly fraud perpetrated upon him. Later in life he was annoyed for a whole evening because he had to decide for Lord John Russell's family whether a hambone which they sent him was a hambone or not. But it turned out next day that Lord John Russell had received from the Grant family, in America, what purported to be a bear's ham, but had never been satisfied until the professor gave an opinion on the nature of the bone. Owen showed the stranger from New-Zealand that no bird could fly with such legs as the piece of bone inblank." dicated. Nevertheless, the latter was so dead in earnest that the anatomist agreed at last to investigate the matter thoroughly. As soon as lelsure permitted he took the fragment to the

was in abeyance for much more than half a cen-

tury. But in 1892, just before Owen's death, "Dr.

Everhard Fraas discovered in the lias of

skeleton of an ox, and found that, while the resemblances were slight, the differences positively precluded comparison. Nor could it be while making these comparisons he observed the fragment of bone more and more carefully, and our host benevolently sent for the pipe; we was struck at last by obscure superficial markings on the bone, which recalled to mind similar ones on the surface of the long bones in some "Thereupon." he added, "I proceeded with it to the skeleton of the ostrich. The bone tailied in point of size with the shaft of the thigh-bone, but was markedly different in shape. There were, however, the same superficial reticulate impressions on the ostrich's femur, which had caught my attention in the exhaustive comparison previously made with mammalian bones. In short, stimulated to a more minute and extended examination, I arrived at the conviction that the specimen had machine. He never let a peculiarity of manner come from a bird; that it was the shaft of a thigh-bone, and that it must have formed part of the skeleton of a bird as large as, if not larger than, the full-sized male ostrich-with this more striking difference, that whereas the femur of the ostrich, like that of the cassowary, emu, rhea and eagle contains air, the present huge bird's bone had been filled with marrow like that of a beast." The paper which Owen prepared on the subject was admitted, not without misgivings, to the "Transactions of the Zoological Society." A hundred copies published separately, and scattered through the islands of New-Zealand, gradually aroused investigation, and many bones of the strange bird were collected and sent to London. The collections were such that Owen was able to select from them proofs of the existence of six different species of the New-Zealand bird, ranging in size from that of the great bustard to that of a creature to display their alertness at his expense by much larger than the ostrich, rising to a height of sixteen feet. In a lecture at the Royal Institution he took the ground that the different genera of opterous birds are merely types accidentally left over of a numerous creation suitable to an earlier condition of the globe. In the by the commissioners was surcharged with end he was able to complete the skeleton literally, as he might have built it up imitatively from the fragment which he first had in his possession. It was the testimony of those who heard him discuss the subject that he drew the putline of what he conceived the complete bone harmless mystification. When Dr. Livingstone to be, the fragment from which he had to make his inferences being out of the middle of the bone. "When a perfect bone arrived and was friend, Colonel Sykes, captured the worthy coulaid on the paper, it fitted exactly the outline | ple and carried them off to a public entertainwhich he had drawn."

Such achievements as this won for him the lege. Sykes took the Doctor and Owen took title, which he would gladly have escaped, of Mrs. Livingstone. "It was a dress assembly the Cuvier of England. To have the credit of in the great hall," wrote Owen to one of his Ike somebody else was so little to his correspondents. "Mrs. L., with a straw-bonnet

witticism of Guizot's, though it might almost be said to have been perpetrated at his expense. At the Literary Club, Owen was introduced O. is taking round the room and paying so to him as the Cuvier of England, all the time | much attention to? I caught sight of Will's wishing, as he said, that people would be content with calling him the Owen of England. Owen) had gone with Dr. Farre before I ar-Guizot, bowing politely, said he was glad to find there was a Cuvier in England. "Not bad that, but rather sly," was Owen's comment. But Professor Huxley, who differed strenuously with Owen on points too numerous to menwhich both men turned with eagerness and pride, researches. He raised the questions which it | England. That building is his monument. suplals, on teeth, as summed up in the monograph "Odontography" and the article "Odon-While these papers and many others indicate | DUBLISHED IN THE to'ogy" in "The Encyclopaedia Britannica." his lines of anatomical research, he began at a comparatively early period in his career a series of important contributions to palaeonsis, especially the remark, "referable by its dentition to the rodentia, but with affinities to the pachydermata, and the herbivorous cetacen," that turned the mind of Darwin toward his theory of the origin of species. It was a fact of vast importance that toxodon occupied an intermediate position between groups which are now widely separated. At all events. Darwin felt it to be so. It was he who had discovered toxodon, and had sent the fossil fragments which he gathered to Owen for examination. Thus Owen, by an acute remark, was re-

sponsible, to a considerable extent, for a theory which he stubbornly opposed. It seems plain

that this opposition on his part was not based on any preconceptions in favor of the mutability of species. The remark on toxodon is sufficient to upset that notion. What Owen was determined to claim and what Darwin was bound by heredity, as one may say, to deny, was the argument of design. Asa Gray, in America, very sensibly and practically harmonized his views of design and of natural selection. It requires only a few minutes' comparison between Gray's letters to Darwin and the statements of the best recent histories of philosophy to show that the American professor had a clear anticipation of the aspect in which Darwin's theory would be viewed before the lapse of a generation. But Owen could not bridge the chasm which seemed to Gray only a triffing cleft. He would have thought it impossible for him from the Darwinian point of view to thrust into an elaborate description of the Aye-Aye this sentence: "One finger, however, on each hand of that animal has been ordained to grow in length, but not in thickness, with the other digits; it remtins as slender as a probe." A Darwinian, even Darwin himself, might have used phrases indicating purpose and final cause without blushing, but not the word "ordained." But Owen recurred to such a word by choice, because he felt more thoroughly than most men the inadequacy of any theory to cover the facts of nature. The appeal to the Divine plan fitted into his curiisly modified Platonism. It is to be imagined that not this generation nor the next will see a profound scientist willing to repeat such a creed as this: "Now, however, the recognition of an ideal exemplar for the vertebrated animals proves that the knowledge of such a being as man must have existed before man appeared. For the Divine mind which planned the archetype also foreknew all its modifications. To what natural laws or secondary causes the orderly succession and progression mitted, we are yet ignorant. But if, without derogation of the Divine power, we may con ceive the existence of such ministers, and personify them by the term 'Nature,' we learn from the past history of our globe that she has advanced with slow and stately steps guided by the archetypal light, amidst the wreck of worlds, from the first embodiment of the vertebrate idea under its old ichthyic vesament, until it became arrayed in the glorious garb of the human form." This may well serve to remind one of Owen's own remark about the inaugural address of his friend, the Cambridge professor of mathematics. "I derived a wholesome lesson from it," said he; "I could not comprehend a word of it! My brain was a

But if Owen was a trifle mystical in his philosophy, he showed in his ordinary intercourse with mankind the same insight and acuteness which characterized his practical writings. Tennyson and his pipe came in for one of these sharp observations after a certain dinner at which the poet seems to have been far from amiable, "When the ladies retired accompanied, with mild cigarettes, the poet, who then began to unroll-a hedgehog simile. When he visited Egypt and inspected the unfinished Suez Canal, M. de Lesseps, with an excessively innocent air, handed him a stone excessively innocent air, handed nim a stone
with some shells imbedded in it and begged to
know what formation it belonged to. "La formation Lessepsienne," was the quick reply. He

MADEMOISELLE VELTIN.
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160 AND 162 WEST TIPLST.
160 AND 162 WEST TIPLST. observed that in lieu of a visiting card Babbage sent in at one house at least a fragment of a small metal cogwheel, with his name on it in red and the words "No cards." This was supposed to be a bit of the famous calculating escape him, if he knew it, much less a chance of seeing with his own eyes any abnormal development of the human frame. "He once remarked," says his biographer, "apropos of violin-playing, how much struck he had been in examining Ernst's long, bony, muscular fingers, which the great violinist had obligingly offered for his inspection." Once at a dinner he met what he took to be the model of Dickens's Jefferson Brick, "a red-haired, self-sufficient youth in spectacles," who "declared that it was out of the question to think of treating the niggers as human beings." This description shows how he picked up the points necessary to a thoroughly disagreeable picture of a very disagreeable character. He certainly could do these things with scientific accuracy. He could use his science in a practical joke. Once a group of income-tax commissioners thought questioning him as to the proceeds of his literary works. He satisfied them, but was not content himself until he had expatiated on the condition of the neighboring churchyard, and the probability that the atmosphere breathed by the commissioners was surcharged with deadly germs. As he departed he heard one of the commissioners shout: "Shut them winforts of HOME. 20 hovs. Francis H. Brewer, A. M., Prin. the commissioners shout: "Shut them windows," meaning the ones next to the churchyard. "I think I paid them out." he added, with manifest delight. He took much pleasure in and his wife were in London in 1856, and before their presence was generally known, he and a ment, the Photographic Soirée at King's Col-

taste that he got much amusement out of a of 1846 and attired to match, made a most singular exception to the brilliant costumes. Who can that odd woman be that Professor (his son) countenance. He and Corry (Mrs. rived. Disgust and alarm most strongly portrayed. He could not conceive what badly dressed housemaid I had picked up to bring to such a place! Corry equally mystified. The extraordinary scrutinies of many fine ladies as they shrank, at first, from contact, as far as the crowd permitted! But when the rumor began to buzz abroad that it was Dr. and Mrs. Livingstone-then at the acme of their lionhood, especially with the Church party, through Lord Shaftesbury's speech the day before-what a change came over the scene! It was which of the scornful dames could first get introduced to Professor O., to be introduced to Mrs. L., and the photographs were comparatively deserted for the dusky strangers." The book is illustrated with several portraits, scientific sketches, and particularly with plans, of Natural History, the existence of which was due to Owen rather than to any other man in

New Unblications.

HOLIDAY ISSUE

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REAL ESTATE.

BUSINESS IN THE FIELD.

There were no extraordinary changes in the real

estate market last week. At the closing of the year many business men restrict their engage ments with a view of balancing their books and beginning the new year with new plans and pur-Notwithstanding these old time customs business has been fairly well distributed in the realty market. Compared with the figures for the corresponding week of 1893 the statistics are satisfactory. There were recorded 185 conveyances last factory. There were recorded week, representing \$2.399.00, and 9t nominal transfers, while for the same week in 1852 the deeds recorded numbered 189, and the total amount involved was \$2,008,489, and the nominal conveyances were

The New-York Clearing House banks in their statement of December's, showed a decrease in the reserve held of \$22,764,500. This loss produced no perceptable effect to real estate horrowers, who perceptable effect to real estate as at the prevail-ing 5 per cent rate, as will be observed by examin-ing the following: There were recorded during the week 249 mortgages, amounting to \$1,559,769, 114 of these mortgages, involving \$58,446, were made at more than 5 per cent; 109, involving \$1,68,714, at 5 per cent, and 35, involving \$2,075,960, at less than 5 ter cent.

are mounted to about \$17,0,000 Lale & Heringer have sold for Thomas McManus es montheast corner of Third ave, and Seyenty-thist, 62,23917 feet, five five-story and one four-HOTEL MAJESTIC, 101. A Reported that William Speri, Jr., has sold to J. C. Goodrich the property at No. 624 Sixtheye, 29.65x100, with a one-story market covering

at \$0.000.

at \$0.000.

learner H. Cannon has exchanged the five-story less flathouse on the southwest corner of West indiance and Seventieth-st. Exfo. with Martin others, for the leasehold of No. 67 West Nincenth-st. Exfo. at different valuations.

Frederick A Carll has sold for James G. Walcotto Mrs. Resina Vollhart the five-story stone and flat, on the lot Exfo.5. No. 34 West Fifty-stone. william Herzog has sold to Robert Gray the our story flathouse, with store, 3-5x63, at No 1.62 scond-ave, southeast corner of Fifty-sixth-st. Perez M. Stewart has purchased from Andrew hiland, jr., for improvement the plot, 44x1622, on he south side of Seventy sixth-st. 30 feet west

of West Endage.

J. S. Robinson has sod the plot 100x10.2, on the north side of Seventy-ninth-st., 100 feet west of Amsterdam-sve, to Robert J. McGirr, builder, for improvement, at 56,200.

Arthur D. Weckes, as attorney, has sold for the owners a plot of sixteen lots on the north side of One-hundred-and-sixth-st., just west of Amsterdam-ave., for \$14,000, to a purchaser who will improve all or part of the plot.

Martin & Brother have purchased of George H. Cannon the five-story flathouse. 25,20x100. No. 117 West Endage.

Lacenes Krakauer has purchased of N. J. Reville, builder, two five story flathouses on the north side of Ninety-fifthest, east of Madison-ave.

J. Bierhoff has resold to Frank H. Hamlin, of Connecticut, at a slight advance, the lots Nos. 142 and 144 West One-hundred-and-thirty sixth-st, which were reported sold recently to Samuel Lynch for Recon H. Freedman has sold for Charles E. Runk

No. 117 West Seventy sixth st. a four-story stone-root dwelling on lot 20x92.2 and twelve lots at In-rood, in the Twelfth Ward to Frederick Kroehle, who will give in exchange the Le Moyne place at dount Hope. Westchester County, a stone house

who will give in exchange the Le Moyne place at Mount Hope, Westchester County, a stone house and fifty acres.

J. P. & E. J. Murray have sold for a Mr. Hayes two lots, 30x30-11, on the south side of One-hundred-and forty-ninth-st., 25 feet west of Grand Boulevard, for \$7,99.

David Stewart has sold for L. F. Carroll and Peter J. McCov the lot on the southwest corner of Amsterdam ave. and One-hundred-and-fiftieth-st, to George J. Marigold for about \$15,999, and for Rernard Kavanagh to Ludlow Ogden the three-story dwelling on the south side of One-hundred-and-forty-eighth-st., 40 feet west of Amsterdam-ave. 17x30x3911, for about \$16,990.

George R. Read broker, has sold the four-story building, Extend-ive through to Stone-st., for Mrs. Rebecca E. Brown to Thomas G. Shortland, for \$2,290.

John A. Gray has filed plans for the building of two three-story frame tenement-houses on the north side of Tremont-ave., 63 fort west of Prospect-ave, to cost \$9,000.

Charles T. Hoffman has filed plans for the building of two-story brick dwellings at Nos. 22 and 24 West Seventy-third-st., 10 cost \$20,000.

William Gunn has filed plans for the building of two-story brick dwellings at Nos. 22 and 24 West Seventy-third-st., 10 cost \$20,000.

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REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS. No 1,529; Samuel Baron and wife et

al to Pauline Baron Josthest, No. 175 East; Charles Goldhammer, to Mary Goldhammer, 113thest, No. 113 West; William Picken to Isabella Mary Goldhammer
113th st. No. 113 West; William Picken to Isabelia
Kons
Gerardet, s. s. part of lots 21 and 22, map of
East Word of Melrose, 23d Ward; William A
Woodward; referee, to John Cools and another,
198th st. No. 213 East; Alex Klinkowstein and wife
et al to Samuel Glotzer
199th st. No. 213 East; Alex Klinkowstein and wife
et al to Samuel Glotzer
199th st. n. s., 92.6 ft w. of 4th-ave, 12.6x100.11;
Ann Burns to Patrick Burns
Same property, Patrick Euras to Thomas Burns,
138th st. s. 450 ft e. of Willis-ave, 16.8x100; Nelson S Cubberly and wife to Chara A Kobisdorf
67th st. n. s., 22.5 ft e. of West End-ave, 50x100.5,
Edgar Whitherk and wife to Mary H Allan,
51st st. No. 430 to 445 West, Emil Bloch and wife
to Alois Gutwillig
2d-ave, Nos 1, 155 and 1, 157; Leopold B Resenberg and wife to Chement March
Malison-ave, e. s. 34.8 ft n. of 91st-st, 34x68;
Sallie Myers and husband to Henlamin Nahm
18d1-st, s. s. 133 ft e. of Orak-ave, 18.6x100.8;
Albert H Bronner to Eliza H Bronner,
19ts st. n. s. 57.4 ft w. of 4th-ave, 20x67; Sallie
Myers and husband to Benjamin Nahm
Franklin st. s. ecorner Washington-st., 60.4x100.4;
Gostavus L Lawrence z. of wife to Benjamin F
Homaine et al.
Goerck-st, No. 108; John H Bronson to Nathan
Carp and another, and the first and wife to Albert
Washer Lot Springest, Jacob Hitsh and wire to Albert Washes.

33d-st, s. s. 115 ft. e. of 9th-ave, 29x38.9; Alexander Algeo to Elizabeth Irving.

18th-st, n. s. 235 ft. w. of 5th-ave, 25x92; Edward H. Van Insen and wife to Mary T. Secomb et al. Central Park West, w. s. 51.2 ft. s. of 76th-st, 51x 100; Benjamin F. Romaine and another, executors, to Gustavus L. Lawrence.

54th-st, s. g. 254.8 ft. w. of Columbus-ave, 100x 87-11x100, 1x91.8; Jame to same.

Central Park West, w. s. 51.2 ft. s. of 76th-st, 51x 100; same et al to same.

Central Park West, w. 512 1 t so of the 100; same et al to same.

94th st, s s, 254.8 ft w of Columbus ave, 100x 87.11x100.1x91.8; same to same.

64th st, s s, 410 ft w of Central Park West, 30x 100.5; John B Ireland and wife to John de C Ireland RECORDED MORTGAGES.

17,000

1,200

1,200

Cools, John, and another to Maggie Moelter; Gerardest, s.s. lots 21 and 22, map of East Ward Village of Metrose, 4 years.
Havitand, Walter A, and another to Mary T Tatum, n.s. Springest, 60.9 ft w of Greenwichst and other property, 1 years.
Glotter, Samuel, to Alexander Klinkowstein and another, n.s. 98th st, 210 ft e of 34-ave, 3 years Livingston, John, and wife to F J Middlebrook, n.s. 89th-st, 125 ft w of 3d-ave, 3 years.
McKenne, Cecilla C, to Charles Riley, n.s. 102-st, 100 ft è of Columbus-ave, demand.
McGahan, Margaret, and another to the Emigrant

Industrial Savings Bank, s.s., 46th-st. 145.3 ft.
of 3d-ave. I year.
Noian, Charles, and wife to John J Houghton, n.
e corner of Furtham and Williamsbridge roads
and Ridge-st and other property. I year.
Schumacher, Henry, and wife to the Irish Emigrant Society, No. 407 St. Nicholas-ave. I year.
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